

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

RITLAND

Serial No.: 10/776,094

Filed: February 10, 2004

Atty. File No.: 4510-1-DIV

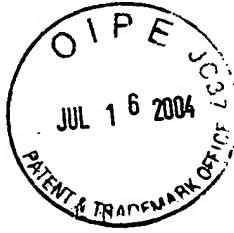
For: "POLYAXIAL CONNECTION
DEVICE AND METHOD"

Mail Stop: Amendments

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE
ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O.
BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313 ON THIS 12 DAY OF
July, 2004.

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

BY: Chasity C. Rossum
Chasity C. Rossum

Sir:

The references cited on attached Form PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the Examiner.

Copy of the cited U.S. non-published patent application reference identified by an asterisk

(*) is enclosed herewith.

Copies of the cited U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed

in accordance with the waiver dated July 11, 2003, whereby patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and
international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 after June 30, 2003 need
not submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications.

Are not enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), because the references were
submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. _____
filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

To the best of applicants' belief, the pertinence of the foreign-language references are
believed to be summarized in the attached English abstracts and in the figures, although applicants do not
necessarily vouch for the accuracy of the translation.

Examiner's attention is directed to the following co-pending application(s) for which priority
is not being claimed (copies foreign application were provided in a previous IDS):

Serial No. 10/262,574 filed September 30, 2002 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-6)

Serial No. 10/788,172 filed February 25, 2004 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-6-CIP)

Serial No. 10/371,317 filed February 20, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-7) (copy encl.)

Serial No. 10/406,895 filed April 4, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-9)

Serial No. 10/435,330 filed May 8, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-9-2)

Serial No. PCT/US03/05086 filed February 20, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-7-PCT)

Serial No. PCT/US2004/010277 filed April 2, 2004 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-9-PCT)

Serial No. PCT/US2004/005751 filed February 25, 2004 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-6-CIP-PCT)

Serial No. PCT/US03/14615 filed May 8, 2003 (Atty. Dckt. No. 4510-9-2-PCT)

EFW

Examiner's attention is directed to the following co-pending application(s), to which the current application claims priority, copies of at least the claims for such pending application are provided or have been provided:

Serial No. _____ filed _____ (Atty. Dckt. No. _____)

Submission of the above information is not intended as an admission that any item is citable under the statutes or rules to support a rejection, that any item disclosed represents analogous art, or that those skilled in the art would refer to or recognize the pertinence of any reference without the benefit of hindsight, nor should an inference be drawn as to the pertinence of the references based on the order in which they are presented. Submission of this statement should not be taken as an indication that a search has been conducted, or that no better art exists.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and the references made of record therein.

FEES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>37 CFR 1.97(b): No fee is believed due in connection with this submission, because the information disclosure statement submitted herewith is satisfies one of the following conditions ("X" indicates satisfaction):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d), or<input type="checkbox"/> Within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of an international application as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 or<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or<input type="checkbox"/> Before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114. <p>Although no fee is believed due, if any fee is deemed due in connection with this submission, please charge such fee to Deposit Account 19-1970.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>37 CFR 1.97(c): The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed after all the above conditions (37 CFR 1.97(b)), but before the mailing date of one of the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113 or(2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, or(3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. <p>This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> A Certification (below) as specified by 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e). Although no fee is believed due, if any fee is deemed due in connection with this submission, please charge such fee to Deposit Account 19-1970. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$180.00 for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement. Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>37 CFR 1.97(d): This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(c).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> This information Disclosure Statement includes a Certification (below) as specified by 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)AND<input type="checkbox"/> Applicants hereby requests consideration of the reference(s) disclosed herein. Enclosed is the fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970. Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970. <p>Election to pay the fee should not be taken as an indication that applicant(s) cannot execute a certification.</p>

Certification (37 C.F.R. 1.97(e))
(Applicable only if checked)

The undersigned certifies that:

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).
 A copy of the communication from the foreign patent office is enclosed.

OR

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS, P.C.

By: 

Mark L. Yaskarin
Registration No. 45,246
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200
Denver, CO 80202-5141
TELEPHONE: 303-863-2975
FAX: 303-863-0223

Date: 7-12-2004
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SHEET 1 OF 1

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 4510-1-DIV	SERIAL NO. 10/776,094
		APPLICANT RITLAND	
		FILING DATE February 10, 2004	GROUP ART

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROP.
	1	6,736,816	5/18/2004	Ritland	606	61	
	2	6,395,033	5/28/2002	Pepper	623	17.13	
	3	* 10/788,172		Ritland			2/25/2004
	4	2004/0002708	1/1/2004	Ritland	606	61	5/8/2003
	5	2003/0191470	10/9/2003	Ritland	606	61	4/4/2003
	5	2003/0171751	9/11/2003	Ritland	606	61	2/20/2003
	7	2003/0093078	5/15/2003	Ritland	606	73	9/30/2002
	8	5,474,555	12/12/1995	Puno et al.	606	73	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.